



City of Valdez
Public Information Office
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PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT
DANGER WARNING:
PLEASE MONITOR SNOW LOADS ON BUILDINGS, RVs, BOATS

For immediate release: 03.04.2022, 3:30 p.m.

Weather forecasts call for a continued wintery mix of snow and rain in Valdez over the weekend.

Please remain cautious about roof snow loads on homes, businesses, and other structures. Current snow loads on many heated city facilities exceed 80 pounds per square foot, about double the average of recent years. This may mean other structures on private property - especially older buildings built before modern code requirements for snow load - may be nearing or exceeding load capacity.

The need for snow removal from buildings depends on roof type, load capacity rating, roof slope, age of the building, and if the structure is heated. If you are concerned about the load capacity of your roof or if it does not shed snow automatically, it may be prudent to arrange for snow removal as soon as possible to avoid damage.

Mariners should also take steps to ensure the safety of their boats moored in the Valdez boat harbors during periods of heavy snowfall and snow load. Make sure to remove snow and ice accumulation from the boat, as well as from the adjacent finger pier. Clear scuppers and visually inspect all thru-hull fittings for damage or loose connections. Perform routine checks for signs of loose or deteriorating planks on wooden hulled vessels. Conduct routine inspections of automatic bilge pumps.

Please remain cautious when shoveling or otherwise removing snow from your roof, recreational vehicle, or boat. Wear appropriate clothing and safety gear to prevent slips, falls, muscle strain, and other injury. Pay attention to the ground below you to avoid causing injury to others or damage to vehicles and property. Keep an extra close eye on children and pets when outside to avoid injuries due to roof shed or falling snow and ice.

According to the Alaska Avalanche Information Center, current 2022 season snowfall in Valdez is 256 inches as of today. Based on historical averages, our community will likely experience an additional 35 to 40 inches of snowfall during the month of March.

By comparison, the National Weather Service recorded a snowfall of approximately 438 inches during the winter of 2011-2012, with over 300 inches recorded by the middle of January 2012 alone. Record snowfall in Valdez is approximately 560 inches, recorded during the winter of 1989-1990.

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